



## We Wish You a "Green" Christmas & A Happy New Year!

The holiday season offers more opportunities for recycling and protecting air quality than any other time in the year. When you recycle, you are helping to prevent air emissions which result when new products are manufactured, instead of recycled. While you enjoy this season, remember our environment and your role in protecting it by following these simple tips:

### GIFT WRAP



Instead of tearing open those beautifully wrapped packages, carefully remove ribbons and tape first, then unwrap them with care and save the ribbons and wrapping for use next year. In doing so, you will not only save resources, you'll save money too! Paper what can't be reused should go into the recycle bin. However, foil and plastic wrap should go into the trash. Keeping that in mind, skip the pretty foil next time you purchase gift-wrap.

### CARDS



Save the fronts! Irresistibly funny and beautiful card fronts can add a unique touch to your packages. Whether or not you have young children around, consider cluing two fronts together to create a holiday mobile! After the holiday, contact a local preschool, they may welcome your donation of Christmas cards for use in students' crafts.

### ENTERTAINING



Rinse bottles and cans prior to placement in a recycle bin. Why not make use of your reusable dishes? Holidays are special...break out the fine china and enjoy it. Ahhhh, the memories...

### THE TREE



Be sure to plant your living tree in a good spot! However, if you didn't get a living tree this year, most cities and towns have a drop-off or pick up program for disposing of your fresh cut tree after the holidays. Check with your local officials to determine correct disposal procedures.

### THE FIREPLACE



Wood smoke from fireplaces and wood stoves can settle in a neighborhood and cause health problems. If you decide to light a fire, there are several things you can do to reduce the amount of fine particles emitted into the air: burn only dry seasoned wood; use manufactured fireplace logs; build small, hot fires – large fires smolder and pollute more; give your fire plenty of room – a fire with a generous air supply reduces heavy smoke emissions.

For more information visit our website at [www.mdaqmd.ca.gov](http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov) and click on the "Learn Before You Burn" link found on our home page.